

About the Lake Butte des Morts Causeway

Originally opened in 1955, the Lake Butte des Morts causeway was in need of an upgrade to accommodate increasing traffic volumes. WisDOT built the new, eight-lane crossing by widening to the west. The new causeway opened to traffic in July 2013 and now provides increased safety and improved traffic flow.

Improvements include:

- Three through-lanes and an auxiliary lane in each direction (this design will also address problems with blowing and drifting snow)
- Lights that span the entire causeway
- A bike-pedestrian recreational trail across the causeway, located east of the northbound lane



The first causeway over Lake Butte des Morts was constructed in 1955. *Photo courtesy Faye Beach*

Thanks to



Winnebago County Parks Department



The upgrades to the Lake Butte des Morts causeway and US 41 mainline are critical to Wisconsin, the region, and area businesses because they ensure an important economic link between the Fox River Valley and south-eastern Wisconsin for the future.

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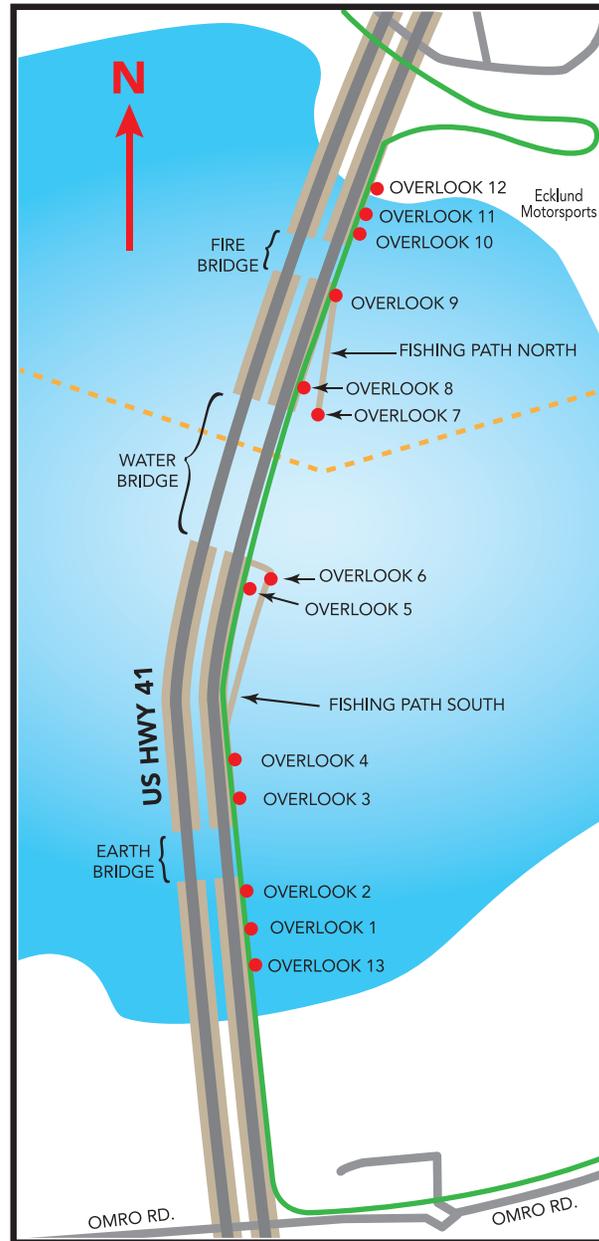
Welcome to the Tribal Heritage Crossing of the Wiouwash State Trail

The Tribal Heritage Crossing of the Wiouwash State Trail has been one of the highly-anticipated benefits of the new causeway, recently completed as part of the US 41 Project. Runners, walkers, bikers and in-line skaters are now able to cross the lake on the trail, which connects to the Wiouwash State Trail on the north end. It provides access to fishing, as well as interpretive displays for all 11 of Wisconsin's Indian Tribes, plus a Natural History kiosk.

The interpretive displays open a window to a water system with a history that is remarkable. It is the ancestral home to Native Americans who have been here "since time immemorial," and it is an important place for all Indian tribes of Wisconsin.

The earliest written accounts of Lake Butte des Morts describe a vibrant river channel winding through a "vast expanse of wild rice," teeming with fish, furbearing animals and waterfowl. In the mid-1850s, with an influx of new settlers and industry—including two dams on the twin lower Fox River outlets of Lake Winnebago—the waterway changed dramatically.

The Causeway reconstruction project was undertaken to address capacity and safety needs on US 41. The result is a new, eight-lane Lake Butte des Morts crossing, created by widening the existing causeway to the west, in addition to the new trail.



Take a Self-guided Causeway Trail Tour

| OVERLOOK # | OVERLOOK NAME |
|------------|---|
| 1 | Bad River Band Of Lake Superior Chippewa |
| 2 | Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohicans |
| 3 | Oneida Nation of Wisconsin |
| 4 | Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin |
| 5 | Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa |
| 6 | Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa |
| 7 | Ho-Chunk Nation |
| 8 | Lac Court Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa |
| 9 | Sokaogon Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa |
| 10 | St. Croix Band of Lake Superior Chippewa |
| 11 | Forest County Potawatomi |
| 12 | Lake Butte Des Morts History |
| 13 | Offering Fire |